United Nations A/55/547–S/2000/1075

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
8 November 2000
English
Original: English/French

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 64
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 8 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to bring to your kind attention the unofficial translation of the press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, dated 6 October 2000, as well as the text of the statement issued by the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the European Union, Ambassador Nihat Akyol, on 4 October 2000 (see annex I).

I also have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 6 November 2000, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex II).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-73601 (E) 091100 091100

Annex I to the letter dated 8 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

A. Unofficial translation of the press statement made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey regarding the report on the unilateral accession negotiations of the Greek Cypriot Administration with the European Union on 6 October 2000

The General Assembly of the European Parliament has adopted on 4 October 2000 the report of rapporteur Jacques Poos regarding the unilateral accession negotiations of the Greek Cypriot Administration with the European Union.

Both the report and the motion for a resolution have demonstrated once again the biased and unrealistic approach to the Cyprus issue of the members of the European Parliament who voted for the resolution.

The Permanent Representative of Turkey to the European Union has reflected our views regarding the resolution in a press statement.

The Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has also made its views known through its statement.

We fully share the viewpoint and the position of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The one-sided resolution accepted in the European Parliament will serve to augment the intransigence of the Greek Cypriot side at a time when the proximity talks are under way, and will create difficulties for the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

B. Statement to the press by H.E. Mr. Nihat Akyol, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the European Union, Strasbourg, 4 October 2000

I wish to express my profound concern regarding the report by Mr. Jacques Poos on the application of Cyprus for membership in the European Union and the state of the negotiations, adopted today by the Parliament.

This is a sensitive matter which concerns both peace and Ankara's desire to develop its relations with the Union along the lines drawn at Helsinki.

The principal reasons for my concern are:

(a) The tone of the paragraphs concerning Turkey is aggressive and incompatible with the positive and constructive spirit which should henceforth govern relations between Europe and Turkey and the formulation of an accession partnership (see para. 19 of the Explanatory Statement);

(b) The report represents a departure from the generally cautious approach adopted in the drafting of previous reports on the Cyprus case. Yet the Helsinki Summit did not endorse automatic membership for Cyprus, but confirmed that the final decision would take account of "all relevant factors" in the case, which is — as

the European Commission has continually emphasized — a complex and sensitive one. In addition, I note in this connection the quite negative reactions of the Greek Cypriots to certain positions recently adopted by the Commission and the Council.

Whereas the Presidency of the Union, in a statement, publicly welcomed the continuation of the proximity talks on the Cyprus question and gave its unreserved support to the persevering efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and despite the latest statement by the Secretary-General made in New York on 12 September 2000, the draft report directly interferes in this negotiation and recommends that the Union should intervene in several ways and in a manner very dangerous for the peace and stability of the region (see paras. 3, 4 and 6 of the resolution and paras. 23 to 26 of the Explanatory Statement).

This position is likely to upset the two Cypriot Parties and to jeopardize the climate of confidence required by such negotiations. The European Parliament will not fail to appreciate the weight of this responsibility, particularly in the light of paragraph 22 of the Explanatory Statement, which specifies that "The aim of this report is not to interfere in the proximity talks".

Without wishing to reopen the debate on the origin of the Cypriot conflict which led to the present situation, it appears that the rapporteur has completely ignored this historical context and that this has led him to recommend that the Turkish Cypriot side should adopt an attitude incompatible with the approach followed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and "join with the delegation of the legal Government of Cyprus, unconditionally" (para. 3 of the draft resolution). This would be tantamount to destroying the fragile equilibrium of the entire negotiations.

Lastly, the report prejudges the future in a number of areas: not only the conclusion of the accession negotiations between the Union and Cyprus (para. C of the draft resolution) but also the role of the Union under the common European security and defence policy (CESDP) in the eastern Mediterranean region (para. 9 of the draft resolution and para. 25 of the Explanatory Statement), although the CESDP is only just taking shape and attempts are being made to develop it in concertation and in harmony with the allied countries such as Turkey which are both candidates and members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The report ignores these facts and tries to commit the Union to using the CESDP as an instrument of pressure and intervention.

On the subject of the accession partnership currently being formulated for Turkey, I should like to point out that the Helsinki decision had the merit of legally separating the Cyprus case from Turkey's accession process. There is no doubt that my country hopes that a fair and lasting solution to the Cyprus question will be found between the two sides directly concerned in Cyprus.

I regret the fact that, although he is a former Minister for Foreign Affairs aware of what is at stake both in the Cyprus question and in the relations of Turkey with the European Union, the rapporteur reached these conclusions. Of course, he will bear full responsibility for guiding the European Parliament into a position which will not contribute to the solution of the Cyprus question. The resolution adopted today in the European Parliament will not facilitate the search for a fair and lasting peace in Cyprus.

Annex II to the letter dated 8 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter dated 26 October 2000 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations (A/55/524-S/2000/1035), enclosing the text of the recent resolution on Cyprus adopted by the European Parliament, I have the honour to convey herewith the statement made by H.E. Dr. Derviş Eroğlu, Prime Minister of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in connection with the above-mentioned resolution (see appendix).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Appendix

Statement by H.E. Dr. Derviş Eroğlu, Prime Minister of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Lefkoşa, 5 October 2000

Yesterday (4 October 2000), the General Assembly of the European Parliament adopted a motion for a resolution on the Cyprus issue reflecting the Greek Cypriot viewpoint based on the report prepared by the former Foreign Minister of Luxembourg and current "Cyprus" Rapporteur of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, Mr. Jacques Poos, which entails false charges against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Turkey.

The stance taken in the resolution of the European Parliament to the effect that the Greek Cypriot administration can become a full member of the European Union in the absence of a comprehensive settlement, constitute the last link in the European Union's chain of errors which began with the acceptance, in 1990, of the Greek Cypriot administration's unilateral and illegal application for European Union membership and continued with the Luxembourg decision of 1997 to start "accession negotiations" with the Greek Cypriot side. Contrary to the claim made in the report that objection to the Greek Cypriot administration's accession to the European Union on account of the particular circumstances prevailing on the island would be both politically and morally untenable, it is in fact the Greek Cypriot administration's attempt, as the purported "legitimate government", to enter into accession negotiations with the European Union in the name of the whole of Cyprus that contradicts political, legal and moral norms.

The European Parliament's call upon the European Union to assume a more active role in the Cyprus question is in complete ignorance of and detrimental to the process of proximity talks being conducted under the United Nations Secretary-General's mission of good offices. With this stance, the European Parliament has proved that it is far from assuming an impartial and constructive posture in the Cyprus question.

Although it is a fact known to everyone that Turkey's effective guarantee is of vital importance for the existence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in his report Mr. Poos has backed the Greek-Greek Cypriot duo, who have been trying to abrogate the Treaty of Guarantee since the establishment of the 1960 Partnership Republic with the sole aim of annihilating the Turkish Cypriot people and thereby annexing the island to Greece. Furthermore, Poos has gone as far as questioning the military presence of motherland Turkey, which is a Guarantor power, and calling for the deployment of an international force.

While the intransigent posture of the Greek Cypriot side, which has been totally spoiled by the green light given by the European Union for its unilateral membership and while the constructive proposals made hitherto by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are evident, this latest unfortunate decision accusing the Turkish side of lack of goodwill, shows how one-sided this decision is. The rather recent statement of the leader of the Greek Cypriot administration, Mr. Clerides, at the second round of proximity talks held in Geneva, rejecting the establishment of a "new partnership" on account of their objective of upholding the so-called "Republic of Cyprus" and his latest reaction to the statement of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, at the fourth round of proximity talks in New York, show the true posture and intentions of the Greek Cypriot side.

It is also unfortunate that this report, which ignores the political and legal realities on the island, comes out at a time when the process of proximity talks is continuing. In this context, our expectation is that the European Union executive organs and the European Union Council of Ministers take a more realistic and responsible stance and prevent this motion from gaining an official status so that the European Union will escape the responsibility for any inconclusiveness of the proximity talks process.

The European Parliament, with its recent decision which is devoid of any balance or impartiality, has, more than anything else, damaged its own functions. We want to believe that this unfortunate decision will not be honoured by the more responsible executive organs of the European Union. We expect this from them. Otherwise, the European Union will go into history as the organization which has contributed to the permanence of the division of the island of Cyprus. We believe that the Governments of the European Union member countries will not accept such a result. We are also expecting all those parties which are undertaking serious efforts in goodwill with a view to furthering the current process of the United Nations-sponsored proximity talks, to remind the European Parliament of its human and political responsibilities in this matter.